

43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

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Jorgensen: Wisconsin Taxpayers Deserve Answers from WEDC

MADISON – Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair and State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) today appealed to his colleagues across the aisle to join with Democrats in demanding answers from the embroiled Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, in the wake of the agency's scandalous mismanagement of millions in grants and loans.

"With a \$2.2 billion budget deficit, Wisconsin cannot afford to throw good money after bad at failing companies that aren't creating jobs. And yet, that's exactly what WEDC has done, time and again," said Jorgensen. "Wisconsin taxpayers deserve to know why these grants and loans are getting approved and what can be done to right the WEDC ship."

Speaking on the Assembly floor today, Rep. Jorgensen urged his colleagues to support a resolution that would have compelled WEDC to provide its records on any questionable or unsecured loans within one week. Jorgensen recently learned that WEDC has written off \$7.6 million in taxpayer-funded loans since the organization was created, including a \$700,000 giveaway without a basic background checks of the company brass which would've evidenced fiscal incompetence.

Jorgensen also noted that, under WEDC's watch – under the Republicans' watch, Wisconsin has dropped to dead last in the nation for business start-ups, 40th in job growth, 42nd in wage growth, and we've seen the largest decline in the middle-class of any state.

"Accountability and transparency at WEDC are critically important to digging the state out of this economic hole," said Jorgensen. "The people of Wisconsin deserve answers. They deserve better."

Disappointingly, the WEDC resolution failed on party lines.

"Republicans seem happy to keep Wisconsin taxpayers in the dark on the bad deals at WEDC, but Democrats will continue to push for the information we need to clean up this agency," said Jorgensen. "Every dollar, every penny counts."

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